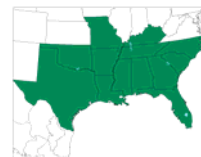


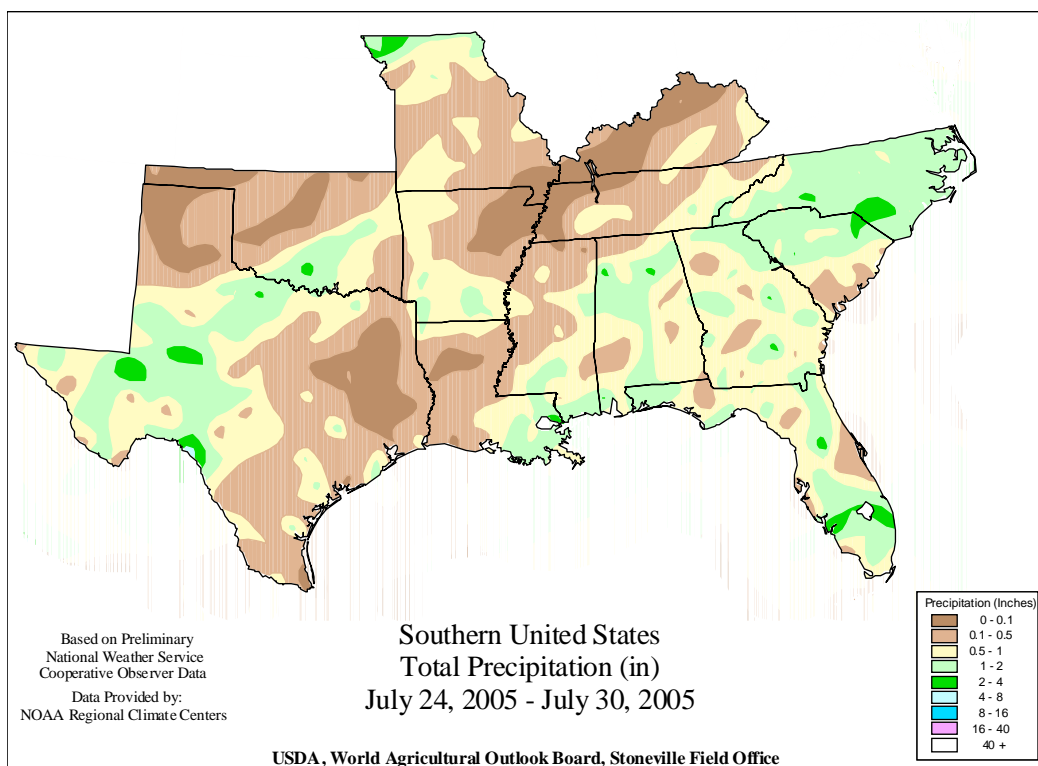


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

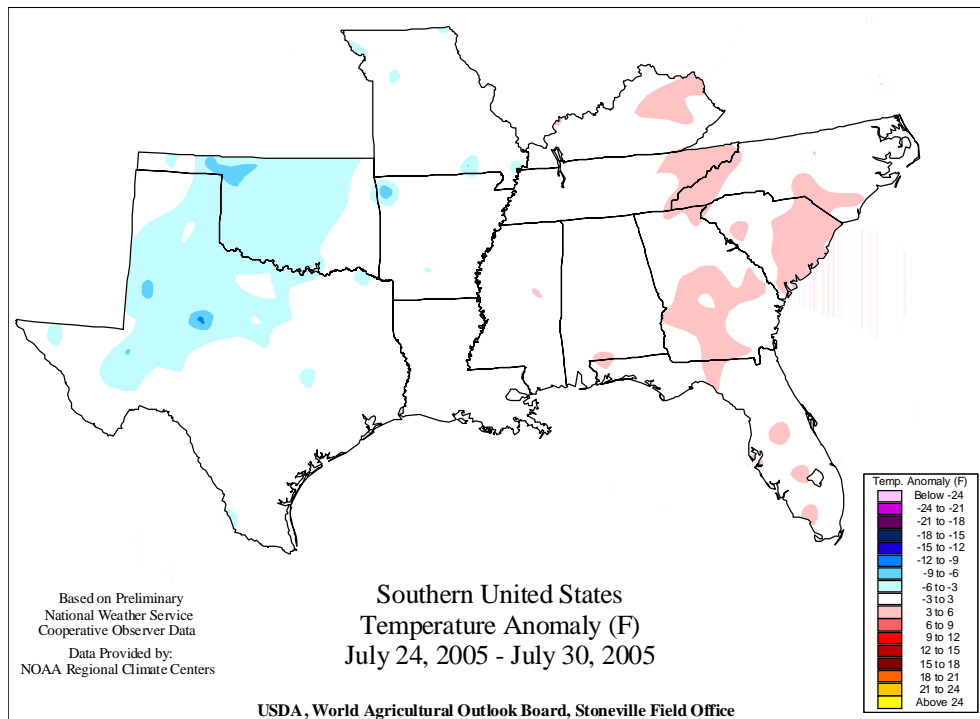
July 24 to July 30, 2005



Weather Highlights

As a cold front moved southeastward across the region, it produced widespread precipitation of .50 to 2 inches, with heaviest amounts of 2 to 4 inches in isolated areas. There were no tropical systems influencing rain totals during the week, therefore, east Texas, west Louisiana, northeast Arkansas, and Missouri remained generally dry, keeping their drought status in the “moderate” to “extreme” category. Drier weather also prevailed in the Tennessee Valley region.

Temperatures were split during the week with only the Mississippi River Valley states averaging near normal. East of the Valley, states averaged 3 to 6 degrees above normal. States west of the River Valley observed temperatures 3 to 6 F below normal, and as much as 6 to 9 degrees F below normal in isolated areas associated with the frontal passage and cloud cover.



The Mississippi Delta received scattered rainfall from the front, with all but one location receiving less than an inch of rain. Perthshire reported a total of 1.86 inches of rain on the 27th and 28th of July as the front slowly advanced. Shower activity was welcomed, easing on the drought and ending a heat wave. Extremely hot weather prevailed early in the week, with three locations reporting maximum temperatures of 100 degrees F or more. Lyon and Silver City reported a daily maximum of 100 degrees F, and Sidon had the highest reading of 102 degrees F. Extreme lows took a noticeable dive down into the mid 60's at the end of the week, with some locations in the extreme northern Delta recording lows of 64 degrees F after the frontal passage.

(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
		July 31, 2005	July 24, 2005	July 31, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Squaring	94	89	96	95
	Setting Bolls	69	49	75	75
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	61	61	70	---
Corn	Silking	92	79	82	84
	Dough	27	14	26	23
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	53	53	76	---
Rice	Headed	45	29	54	53
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	62	61	68	---
Soybeans	Blooming	91	81	83	82
	Setting Pods	55	36	47	44
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	54	54	70	---
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

Cotton:

Bolls were setting on 69 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 75 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Most southern states were near or ahead of their 5-year average boll setting pace. Alabama and Oklahoma were significantly behind their 5-year average boll setting pace by 23 points and 19 points, respectively. Arkansas and Texas reported having bolls open, and Texas had harvested 2 percent of their crop. Nationally, crop conditions remained the same from last week with 61 percent of the crop rated good to excellent.

Corn:

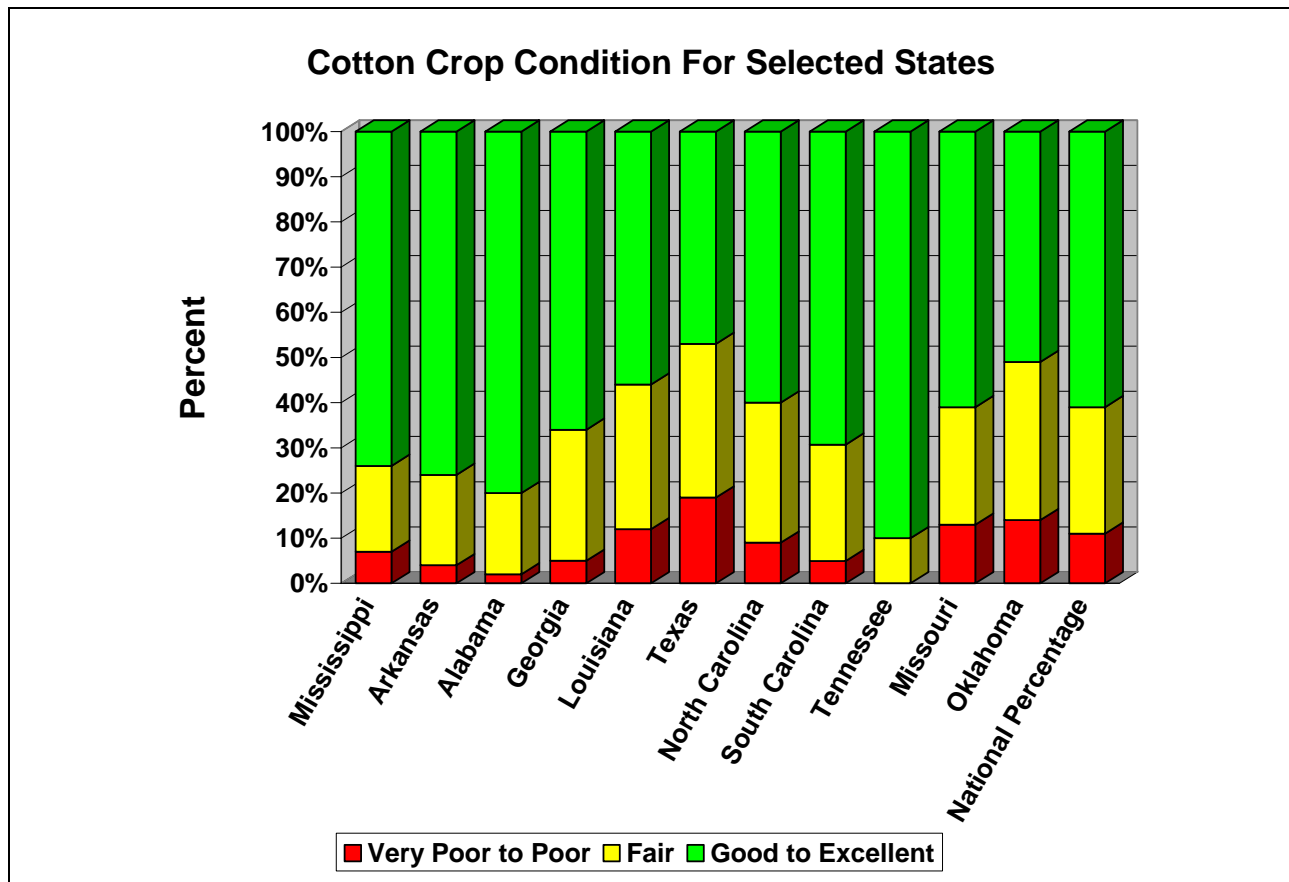
Silking advanced nationally to 92 percent complete, 10 points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-three percent of the crop was considered to be in good to excellent condition, no change from last week. The southern states' corn crop was most advanced in Texas, with 59 percent mature and 19 percent harvested. In Louisiana, 70 percent of the crop was mature, an advancement of 21 percentage points from last week.

Rice:

Nationally, 45 percent of the acreage had headed, 9 points behind last year's pace and 8 points behind the 5-year average. All of the southern states trailed behind their 5-year average pace, except Missouri. Missouri, at 43 percent headed, was 12 points ahead of their 5-year average. Sixty-two percent of the nation's crop was rated good to excellent, gaining 1 percentage point from last week. Mississippi continued to lead all southern states with 86 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, even with a reduction of 5 percentage points from last week.

Soybeans:

Ninety-one percent of the nation's crop was blooming, ahead of last year by 8 points and the 5-year average by 9 points. Pods were set on 55 percent of the acreage, 8 points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop conditions did not change from last week, with 54 percent of the crop rated at a good to excellent condition. Southern states' soybean crops ranged from turning color in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, to 16 percent of the acres setting pods in North Carolina.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, 61 percent of the cotton crop acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, no change from last week. Ninety percent of Tennessee's acreage was rated good to excellent, an improvement of 4 points from last week. Alabama, with 80 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, followed Tennessee in having the best crop conditions of all the southern states. Oklahoma reduced their good to excellent crop acreage ratings by 15 points from last week to 51 percent rated good to excellent. Texas continued to have the lowest crop ratings with only 47 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, a one point improvement from last week.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)